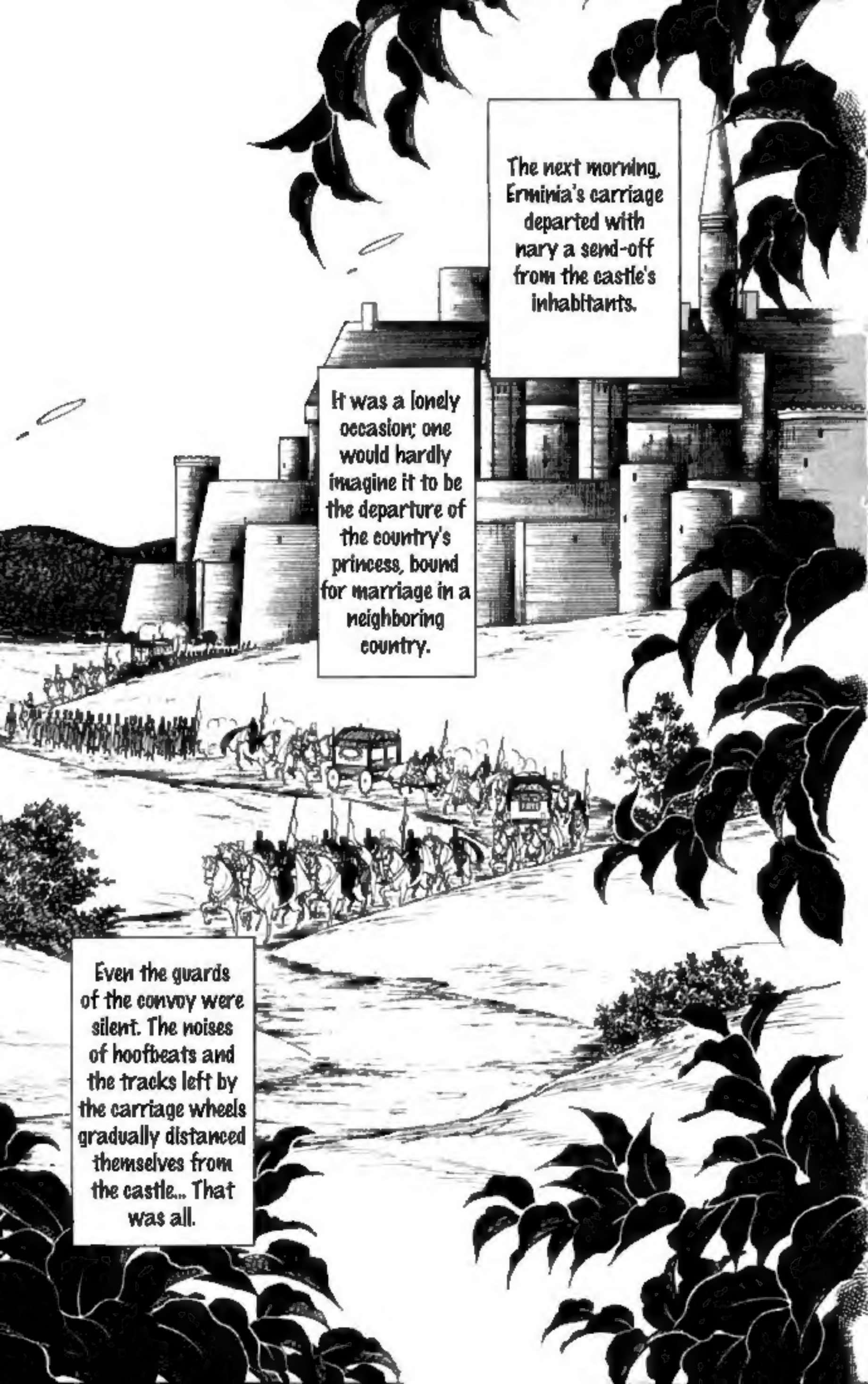
shoujo magic
Do you believe in Magic?
In a young girl 's heart...

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The next morning, Erminia's carriage departed with nary a send-off from the castle's inhabitants.
It was a lonely occasion; one would hardly imagine it to be the departure of the country's princess, bound for marriage in a neighboring country.
Even the guards of the convoy were silent. The noises of hoofbeats and the tracks left by the carriage wheels gradually distanced themselves from the castle... That was all.

It was as though Erminia did not see the Gemini constellation, under which she was born and raised,
nor the cities of Paros, nor the mountains she'd ridden over on horseback, nor the flow of the Liira river.
She didn't shed a single tear at the changing scenery visible through the thin curtains of the carriage.

WHAT IS IT?
PLEASE CONVEY THIS TO PRINCE FAON, CAPTAIN.
THE LEGENDARY SWORD OF PAROS.
THE PEOPLE WILL NOT RECOGNIZE ONE AS THE SOVEREIGN OF PAROS UNLESS ONE POSSESSES IT.
BE SURE IT ARRIVES IN CALOS SAFELY, ALONG WITH ERMINIA...
CAMP OUTSIDE PRINCESS ERMINIA'S LODGING AND GUARD HER! DON'T BE SLOPPY!
WE'LL BE STAYING IN THIS POST TOWN TONIGHT!
HOTEL

knock knock
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU YOUR MEAL, PRINCESS ERMINIA.
PRINCESS ERMINIA...
IF YOU DO NOT EAT EVEN A MORSEL...
IT SHALL BRING HARM TO YOUR BODY.

PRINCESS ERMINIA
...
I BEG YOU.

FIO... NA?
FIONA...!
PRINCESS ERMINIA!

IS IT TRULY YOU, FIONA...? OR DO I BUT DREAM...?
NO, IT IS I. IT IS YOUR FIONA, PRINCESS ERMINIA.

FIONA... I...
I... THOUGHT I HAD LOST EVERYTHING...

Princess Erminia!

CLASPED
AGAINST MY
BREAST...
YOU ARE
HERE...
IN MY
ARMS...

FIONA ...?

PRINCESS ERMINIA.

PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY

...THERE IS NO TIME.

I SWEAR WE SHALL COME RESCUE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT, WITHOUT FAIL.

WE?

THE ONLY ONE YOU HAVE LOST IS YOUR FATHER, PRINCESS ERMINIA.

OUR SOLE WISH IS FOR YOU AND SIR YURIAS TO RESTORE PAROS

TO ITS FORMER PEACEFUL STATE.

YOU SEEM A WHOLLY DIFFERENT PERSON. . FROM BEFORE. THE FIONA OF BEFORE .. WAS TIMID. SHE WAS MY SWEET LITTLE FLOWER, AND WHEN I WAS WITH HER, I FELT AS THOUGH I WERE DREAMING.
MANY THINGS HAVE COME TO PASS SINCE THAT TIME.
knock
knock
HEY!
YOU'VE BEEN IN HERE TOO LONG, LITTLE GIRL! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
Y-YES I HAVE JUST NOW FINISHED MY DUTIES.

Tomorrow night,
I am going to escape. I am certain of it.
rattle
rattle

tap
tap

PRINCESS ERMINIA ...

SIR YURIAS AND HIS PARTY AWAIT YOU ATOP A HILL. HE HAS FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ALL OF OUR PLANS.
AND YOU, FIONA?
YOU CAN SLIP AWAY FROM HERE TOGETHER WITH ME, CAN YOU NOT?
...I SHALL FOLLOW YOU SOON AFTER.
I SHALL HIDE UNDER THE BLANKETS UNTIL THE GUARD PERFORMS HIS CHECK, TO EARN US TIME.

FIONA...
THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR WORRY ...
EVERY-THING SHALL GO AS PLAN-NED.
AND THEN I SHALL FOLLOW YOU.

ONE OF OUR PARTY HAS SECRETLY TAKEN THIS FROM THE CAPTAIN'S ROOM AND LEFT A SUBSTITUTE IN ITS PLACE.
TAKE THIS, PRINCESS ERMINIA.

I SHALL AWAIT YOUR CERTAIN ARRIVAL.
BE CAREFUL, FIONA.
WHEN YOU NEAR THE HILL, PLEASE PLACE THIS CLOTH AROUND YOUR SHOULDERS. THAT WILL BE THE SIGNAL TO SIR YURIAS.
HURRY. THERE IS NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE.

...IF YOU DO NOT, I SHALL RETURN FOR YOU.

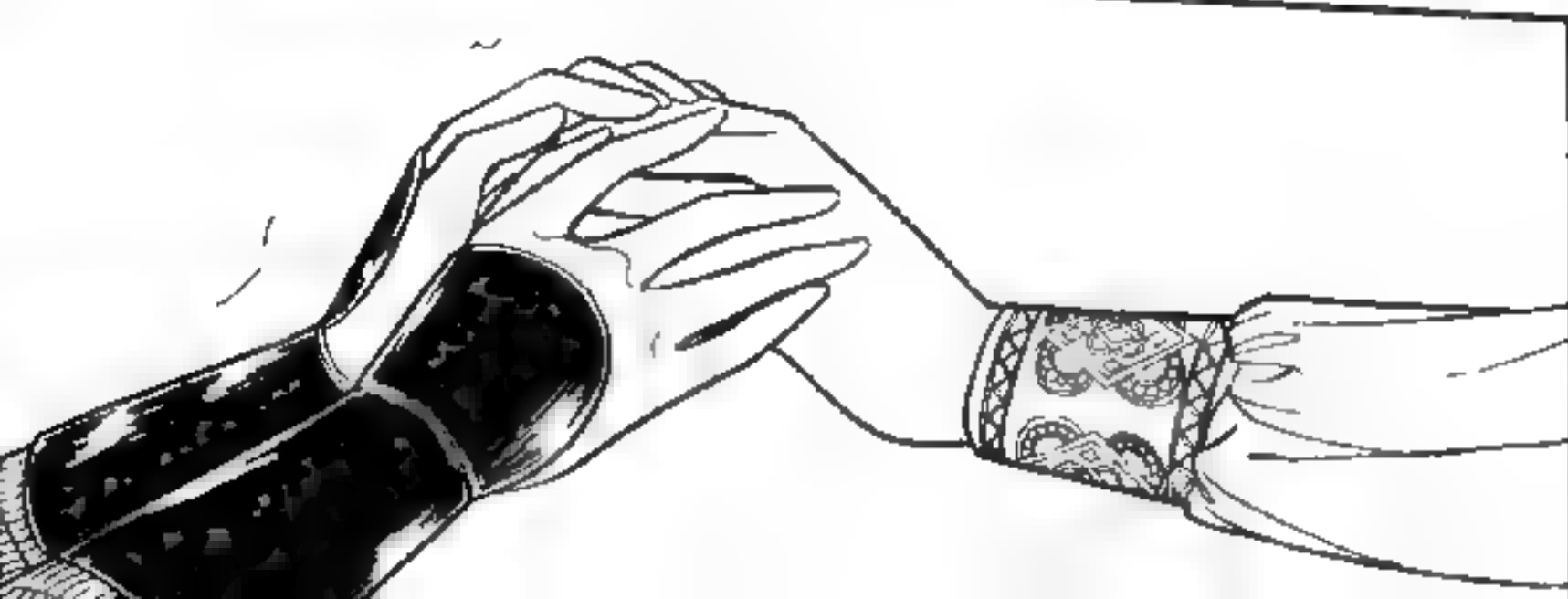
YES... I WILL CERTAINLY BE COMING

I SHALL NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE.
I LOVE YOU, PRINCESS ERMINIA.
My heart and soul shall always be with you.
Yes... I shall love you until my dying breath.

You are my one and only prince.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM TWO OR THREE DAYS' TIME

I HAVE BROUGHT PRINCESS ERMINIA!

PRINCESS ERMINIA!

Y-YOUR MAJESTY! YOU ARE UNHARMED!

YURIAS... WH... WHAT HAS BECOME OF YOU...?
ERMINIA...

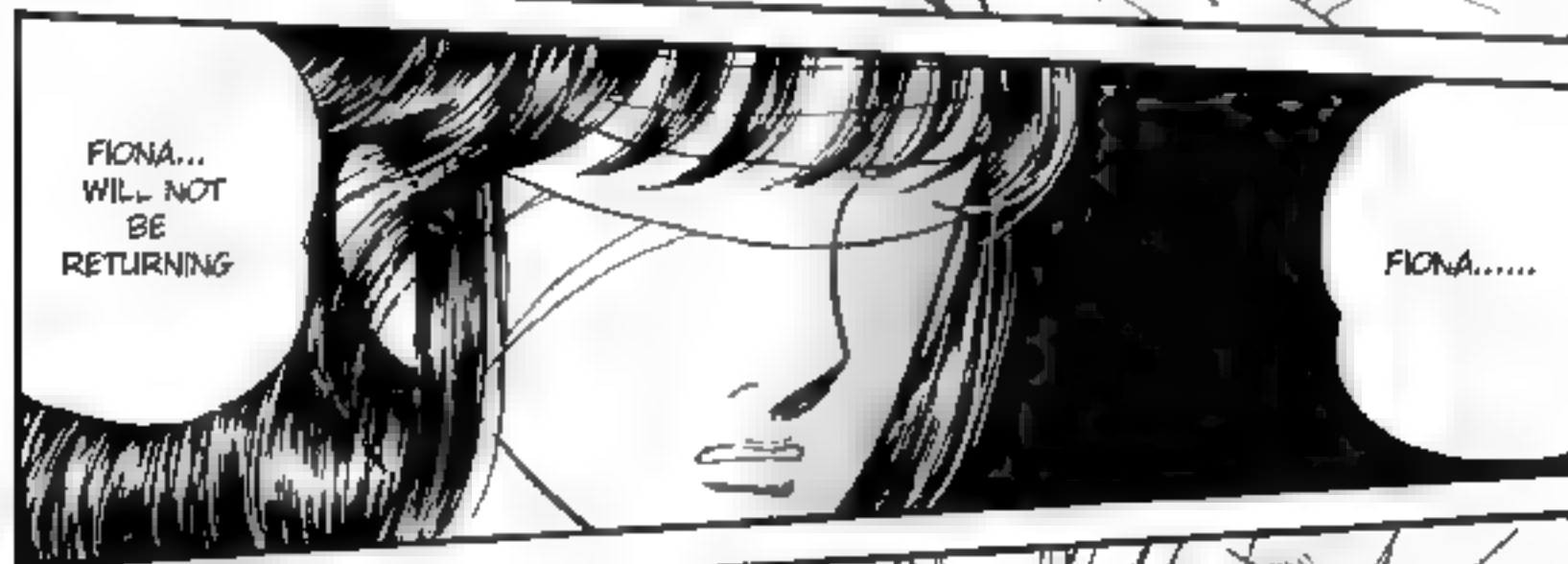
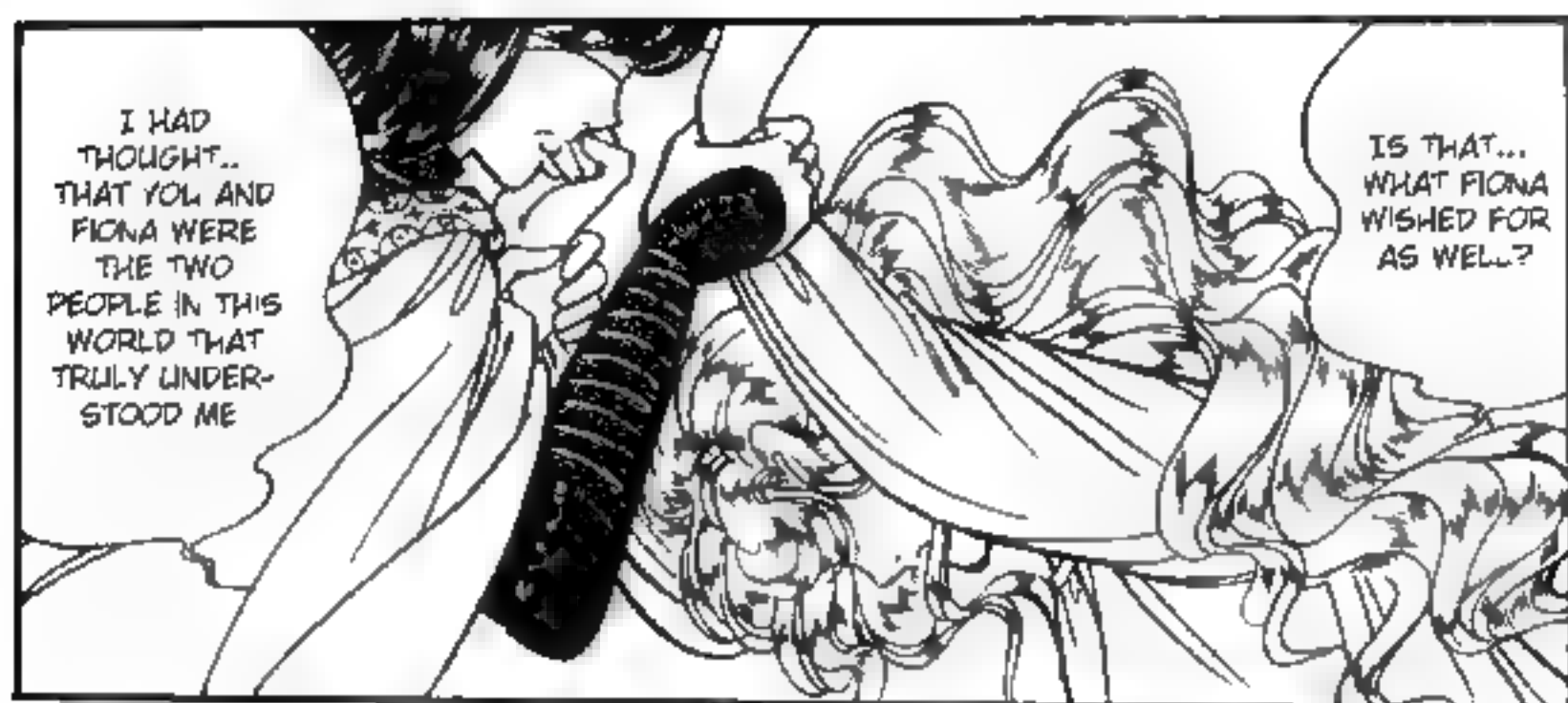
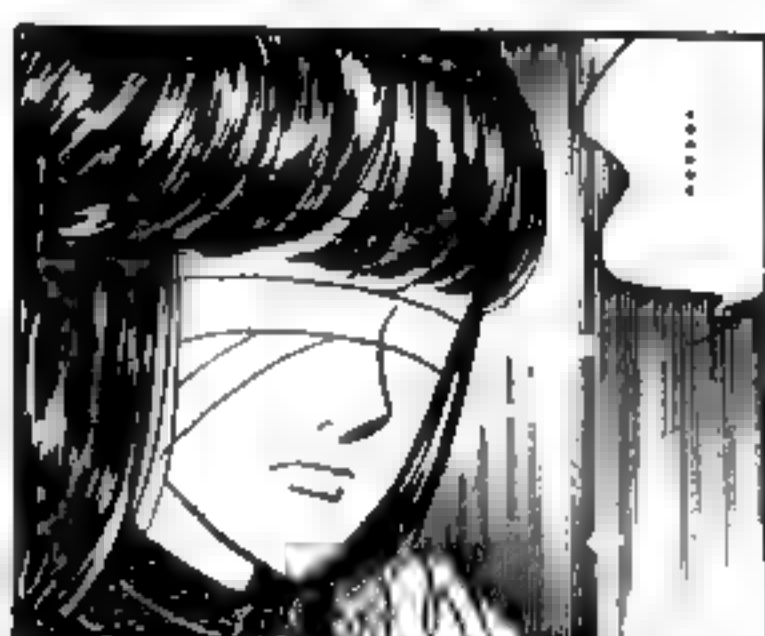
THE SWORD OF PAROS SHALL NO DOUBT ANSWER THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER I AM THE FINAL PRINCESS OF PARO, DESTINED TO SEND THE COUNTRY INTO RUIN, OR THE HERO OF PARO, DUE TO RESTORE OUR COUNTRY TO ITS FORMER STATE.

SUCH GALLANT SOULS! DUE TO YOUR EFFORTS, THIS SWORD HAS RETURNED TO MY HANDS.

O YAN! GRANT ME YOUR DIVINE MESSAGE!
ERMINIA ...?
MAKE CLEAR MY TRUE NATURE: AM I A MONSTER, SENT TO RUIN THIS COUNTRY, OR AN ANGEL, BOUND TO SAVE IT!?

H... HEY, DO YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
YES, THUNDER?
HOW OMINOUS ...!

O Yan...! Do you mock Erminia's fate!?
The faint echo of thunder ...
O YAN! I, ERMINIA, FEAR NOT DEATH, NOR BATTLE!
I FEAR NOTHING!
I FEAR NO FATE!
ARE YOU AWAKE, ERMINIA?

IS SHE BACK YET?
OUR PRESENT PLAN IS TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE DUCHY OF CALAVIA...
WE SHALL DEPART AS SOON AS WE FINISH OUR REPAST
FIONA! WHERE IS SHE? SHE IS MY PETITE HERO. I SHOULD LIKE TO TELL HER OF MY ADMIRATION FOR HER AND MY WORRY OVER HER.
ERMINIA...
FIONA......
FIONA... WILL NOT BE RETURNING
Shojo Magic

...HER PLAN IS TO GIVE US AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE TO ESCAPE... AND TO TAKE HER OWN LIFE...
BEFORE FAON DISCOVERS THE TRUTH...
IMPOSSIBLE...! WHY EVER WOULD SHE...!?
ERMINIA! LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!!
OUR ONLY HOPE FOR THE REVIVAL OF PARO RESTS ON YOUR SHOULDERS!
SO I MUST LIVE ON, NO MATTER WHO MUST BE SACRIFICED!?
...YOU ARE FORCING ME TO LIVE ON...?
I HAVE LOST MY FATHER, MY COUNTRY... MY CASTLE AND MY VASSALS. I HAVE LOST MY LOVE... AND YOU TELL ME TO LIVE ON, BECAUSE I AM THE PRINCESS OF PAROS...

SIMPLY BECAUSE OF MY POSITION AS A PRINCESS, I AM FORCED TO MEET PRINCES FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHOM I'VE NEVER LAID EYES ON BEFORE IN ORDER TO BIRTH AN HEIR TO THE THRONE OF PAROS. I AM FORBIDDEN TO DECIDE MY OWN FATE.

I HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST THAT FATE WITH ALL OF MY BEING: I HAVE SWORN OFF DRESSES, SPOKEN AS A MAN DOES, AND BRANDISHED A SWORD ON MANY AN OCCASION.

I BELIEVED SHE LOVED ME SIMPLY FOR MYSELF.
FIONA WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW PAST THAT, WHO SAW PAST BOTH MY POSITION AND MY SEX.
...IT IS EXACTLY AS YOU HAVE SAID, IS IT NOT, ERMINIA?
FIONA AND I BOTH LOVE YOU REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU MAY BE.
PERHAPS... IT WAS BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT THAT YOU LOVED FIONA.
I BELIEVE YOU TRULY LOVED HER, DISREGARDING HER LOWLY STATUS AND HER SEX.

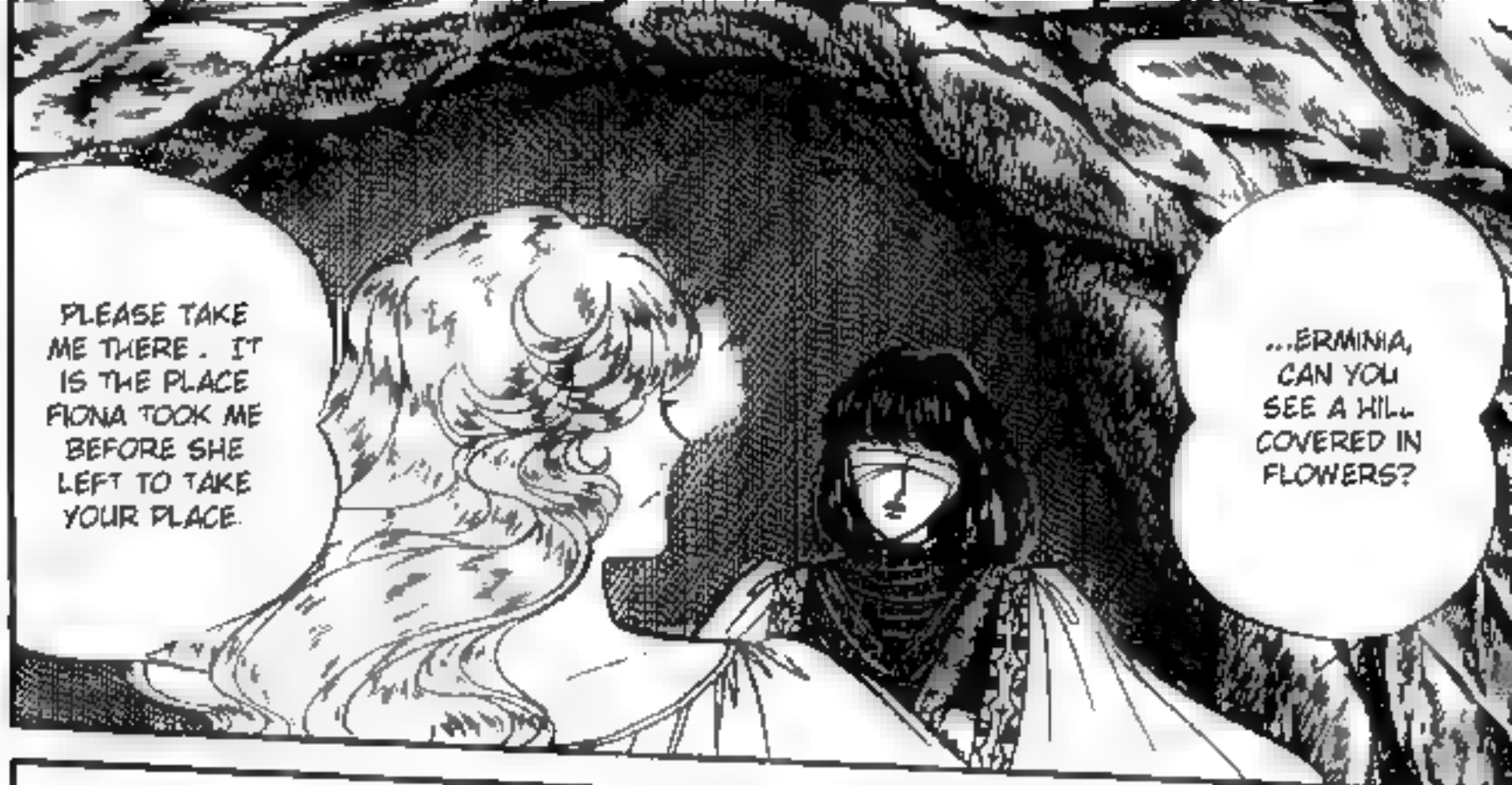
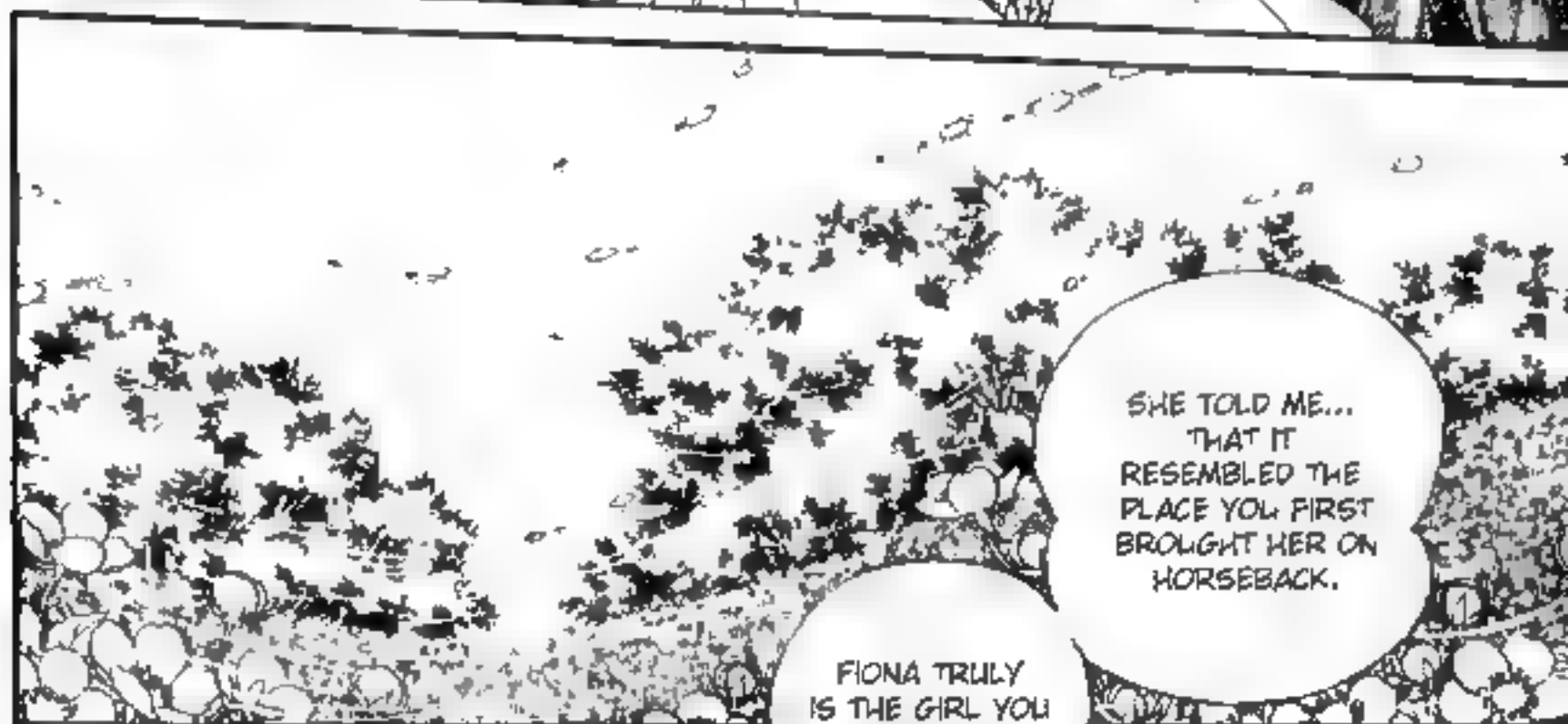
YES! BEING WITH FIONA WAS MY HAPPINESS, MY DREAM.

COULD SHE TRULY HAVE THOUGHT THAT BECOMING THE RULER OF PARO AT THE COST OF HER LIFE
WOULD BRING ME HAPPINESS?

SHE EVEN DECEIVED ME SWORE TO ME THAT SHE WOULD SOON FOLLOW AFTER ME...
WAS SHE REALLY SO IGNORANT OF WHAT LAY IN MY HEART!?

WHY---? WHY---!?

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, YURIAS...

I WISH TO DISCARD THE MANTLE OF THE PRINCESS OF PAROS. I AM YET YOUNG...
I CANNOT SPEND THE REST OF THE TIME ALLOTTED TO ME LIVING A LIE.

...ERMINIA, CAN YOU SEE A HILL COVERED IN FLOWERS?
PLEASE TAKE ME THERE. IT IS THE PLACE FIONA TOOK ME BEFORE SHE LEFT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.
SHE TOLD ME... THAT IT RESEMBLED THE PLACE YOU FIRST BROUGHT HER ON HORSEBACK.
FIONA TRULY IS THE GIRL YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS, THE GIRL YOU LOVE.
THAT SHE IS SO MISUNDERSTOOD BY YOU... I HAVE THE DEEPEST OF PITY FOR HER.
...
...SHE TRIED TO TAKE HER OWN LIFE ONCE, SO THAT SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU AGAIN.

FIONA DID THAT ..?
FIONA WAS GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE. SHE BEL EVES IT MAY BE THE WILL OF YAN THAT SHE DEVOTE THAT LIFE TO YOU. AND NOW THAT SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO SEE YOU ONCE MORE, SHE CAN DIE WITH NO REGRETS.

SHE TRIED TO TAKE HER OWN LIFE...?
WHY...? WHY!?

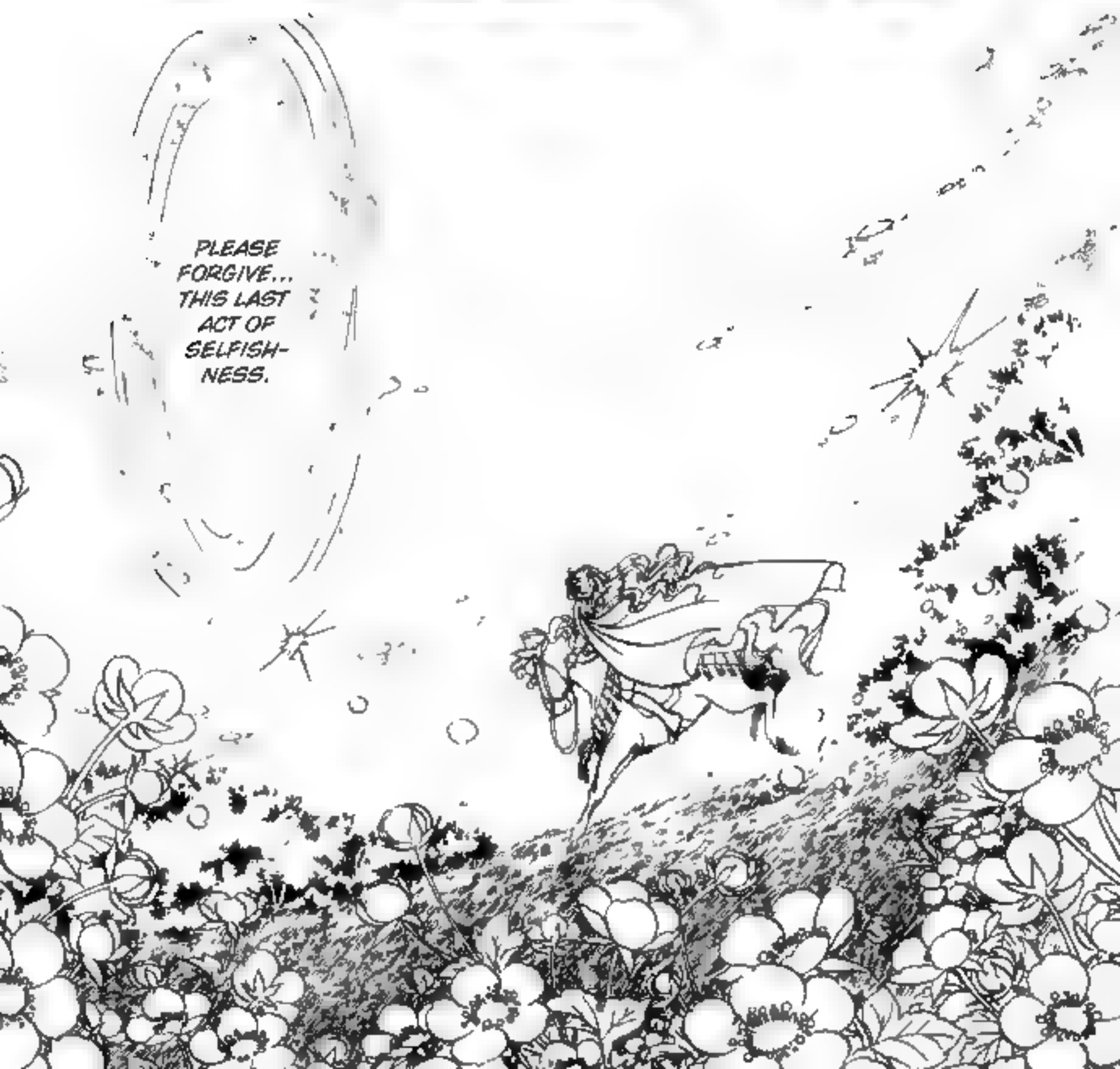
... FIONA FORBID ME TO TE... YOU...
SHE...... WAS SHAMED BY A GROUP OF CALOSIANS, SUBORDINATES OF DUKE ALPHONSE.
THEY DID IT IN ORDER TO DRIVE HER AWAY FROM YOU.

......
ERMINIA...

Fiona!
Fiona!
Meeting me brought her such terrible misfortune!
And yet, a smile upon her face, she plans to give her life for mine!

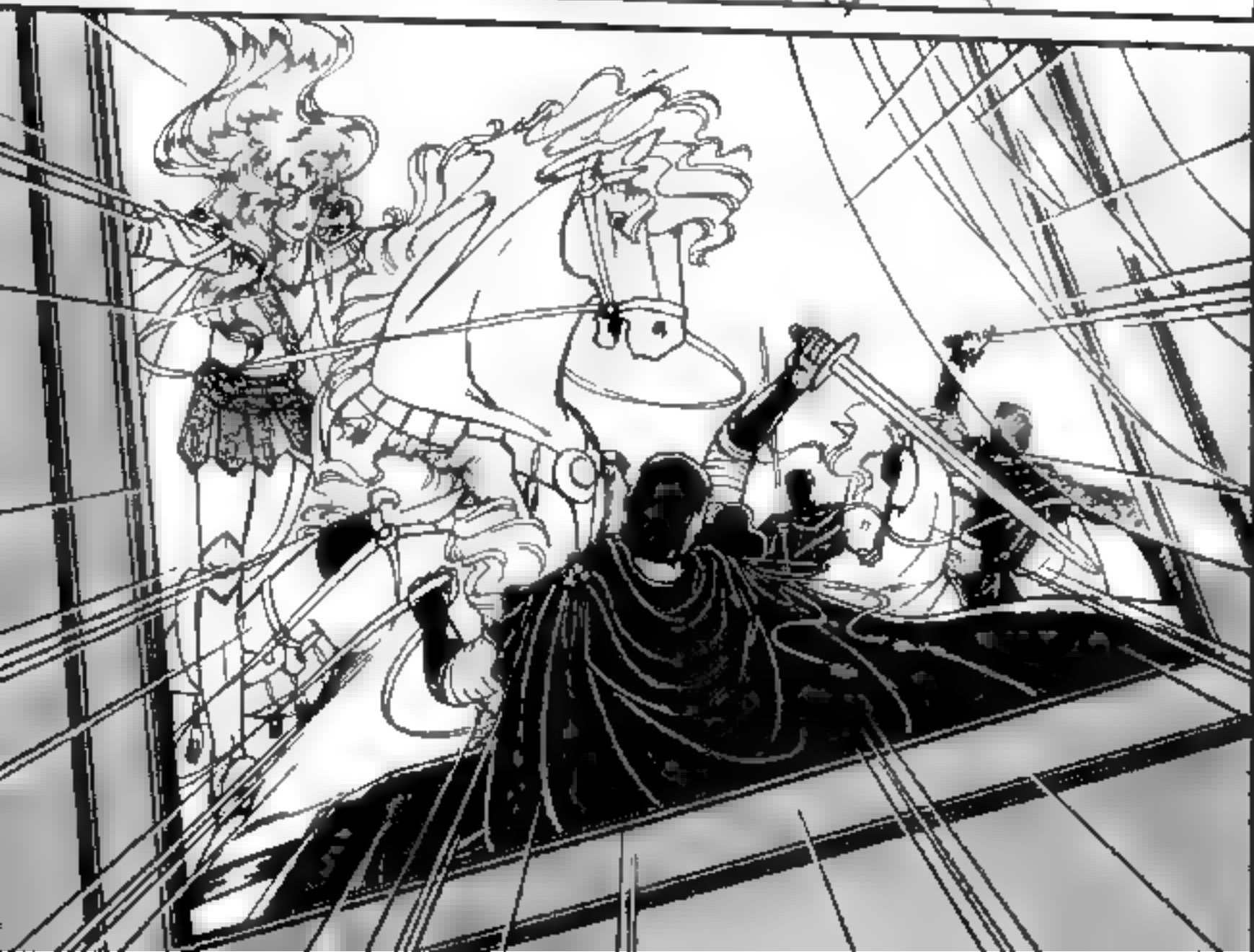
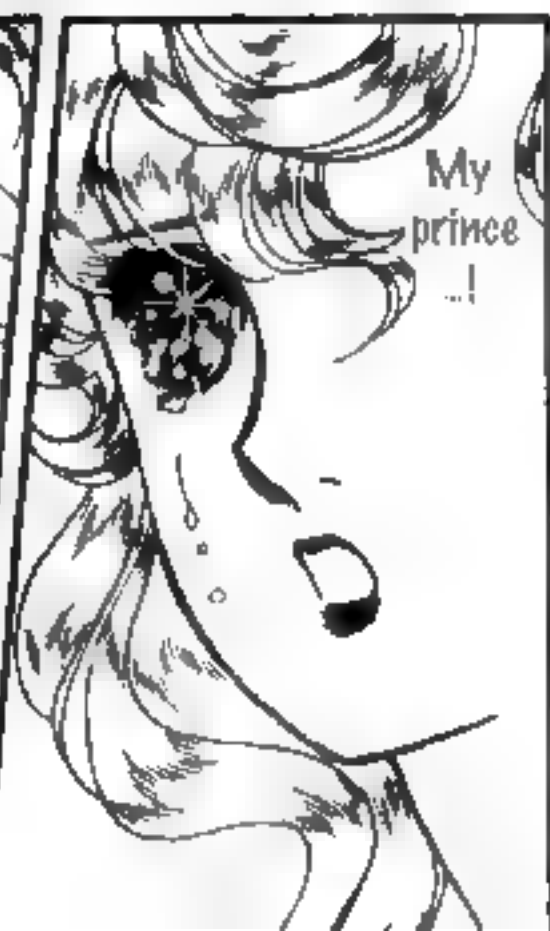
ERMINIA.. WHAT IS THE MATTER?
ERMINIA...?
Fiona... you believe this will bring you happiness...
But let us seek our happiness together!
under-handed tactics,
nor abominable legends, nor any nation, nor even Yan himself can break the bond between our souls!

ERMINIA...
ARE YOU THERE?
YURIAS ...
I LOVE YOU, YURIAS.
IF I AM EVER REBORN INTO THIS WORLD, I SHALL BECOME YOUR WIFE...
ERMINIA...?
I SHALL BE BY YOUR SIDE, WHETHER OR NOT YOU SO DESIRE.

WE SHARE TWIN SOULS.
ERMINIA!
I LOVE YOU. .
PLEASE FORGIVE... THIS LAST ACT OF SELFISH-NESS.

How strong and true the bond between two souls is!

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
WHO ARE YOU!?
RATTLE

FIONA!

Princess Erminia!

WOULD YOU. . DIE WITH ME?
I... SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU.
HERE I COME!

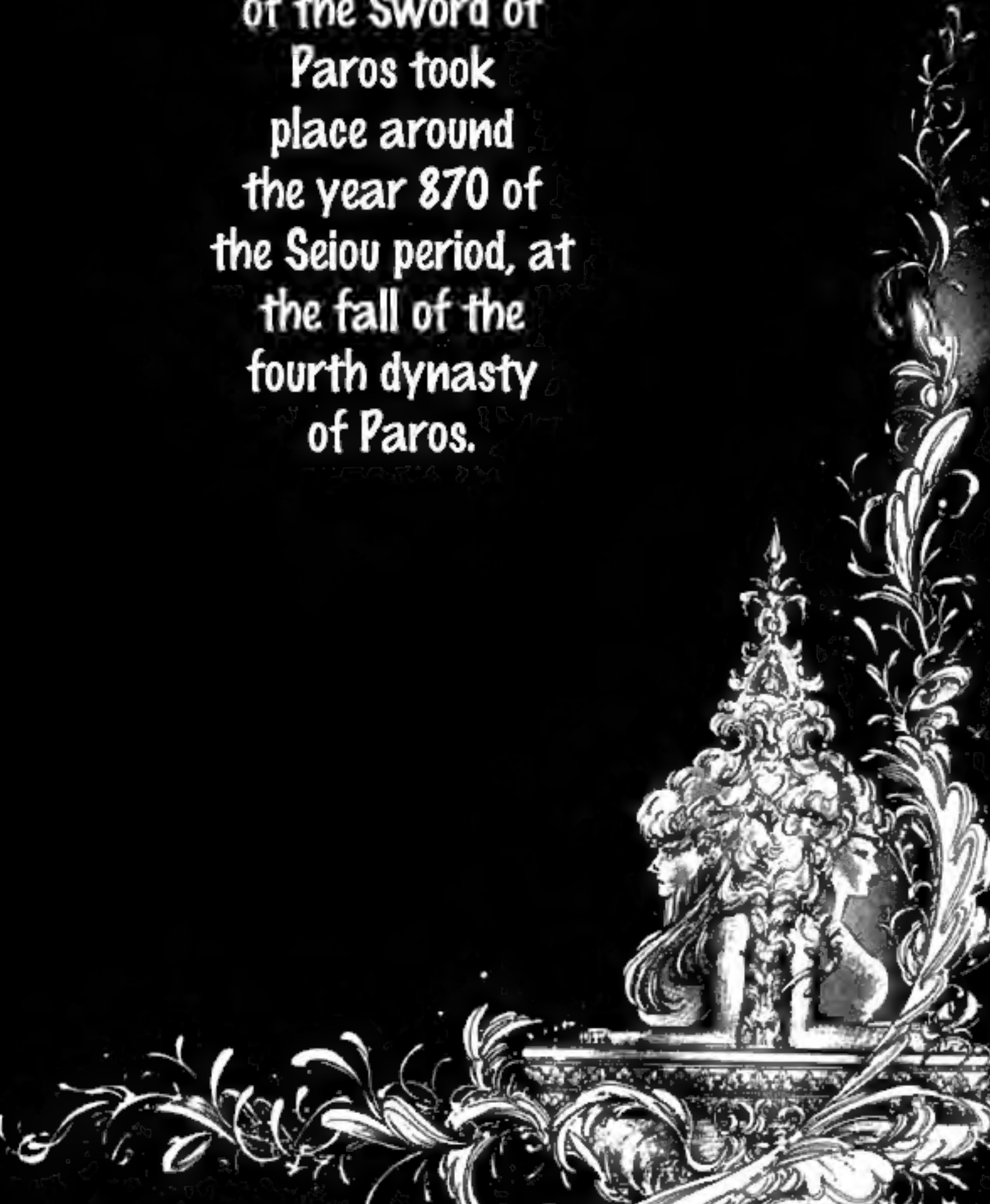
YOU'RE TOUGH!

SURROUND THEM! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

ERMINIA!

YURIAS!
ERMINIA!

Even Yan himself could not stop me from coming.
Even death could not tear us apart!

Night fell upon the plains of Paro.
Darkness enveloped both pursuer and pursued.

No man knows what became of them after that night...
So is the saga of the Sword of Paros told.

The saga of the Sword of Paros took place around the year 870 of the Seiou period, at the fall of the fourth dynasty of Paros.
The Sword of Paros // END

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THANK YOU!! ♡

Siana and the entire ShoujoMagic Staff